

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00974 122334Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04
EUR-12 CPR-01 TRSE-00 A-01 /039 W
-----027785 122355Z /75-65
R 081813Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9528
INFO SECDEF WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0974

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR BF US
SUBJ: BAHAMIAN CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES AT
U.S. FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS

REF: A) 1963 AUTECH AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND;
B) 1963 NAVY TO NAVY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHIEF OF
NAVAL OPERATIONS, U.S. NAVY, AND THE FIRST SEA
LORD, ROYAL NAVY;
C) 1957 OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH STATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. C.O. NAVFAC ELEUTHERA HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM
FROM GCOB CUSTOMS OFFICER, GOVERNORS HARBOR, ELEUTHERA:

"SUBJECT: CONTROL OF DUTY FREE CONCESSION UNDER THE
LONG RANGE PROVING AGREEMENT.

DEAR SIR: THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PROCEDURES WHICH ARE
TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS FROM THE 15TH OF JUNE, 1977.

(1) MACKEY AIRLINES, BETTER KNOWN AS THE RANGE LINER, WILL
BE ENTERED AND CLEARED BY BAHAMAS CUSTOMS WHENEVER THE SAME
IS ARRIVING FROM, OR LEAVING FOR A FOREIGN PORT. AS A
RESULT OF THIS, WE EXPECT TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE ESTIMATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00974 122334Z

TIME OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

(2) IT IS REQUESTED OF YOU TO PRODUCE A LIST OF ALL PER-
SONNEL ATTACHED TO YOUR U.S. NAVY FACILITY, AND ALSO A LIST
OF THEIR HOUSE-HOLD GOODS, FURNITURE, KITCHEN UTENSILS,
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, TOOLS AND SPORTING GOODS. A
SEPARATE LIST OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES AND BOATS IS REQUIRED.
(3) CUSTOMS OFFICERS WILL BE MAKING PERIODICAL SPOT CHECKS

OF THE GOODS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (2) SO AS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE SAME HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF WITHOUT THE PROPER PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY.

(4) WE REQUEST AMPLE SPACE AT THE AIRPORT BUILDING IN GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR FOR THE PROCESSING OF PASSENGERS BAGGAGE AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

YOUR COOPERATION IN THE ABOVE LISTED MATTER IS ANTICIPATED. YOURS TRULY, /S/ L.A.W. PARKER, FOR COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS. UNQUOTE

2. CUSTOMS OFFICER PARKER HAS TAKEN THE GOVERNOR'S HARBOR POST FROM A NASSAU AIRPORT ASSIGNMENT AND IS OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO PUT THE GCOB SIDE OF THE CUSTOMS HOUSE ON ELEUTHERA IN ORDER. THIS COMES AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF COMPLETE INACTIVITY BY GCOB CUSTOMS AT NAVFAC ELEUTHERA. NAVFAC ELEUTHERA HAS INFORMED MR. PARKER THAT HIS LETTER IS BEING PROCESSED, BUT THAT HIS TIME FRAME FOR COMPLIANCE IS UNREALISTIC.

3. IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT, WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MR. PARKER IS ACTING ON HIS OWN OR AT THE DIRECTION OF HIGH AUTHORITIES IN NASSAU, HE HAD CITED THE LONG RANGE PROVING GROUND AGREEMENT, VICE REFS A AND B, WHICH NOW GOVERN NAVFAC ELEUTHERA FOR CUSTOMS MATTERS INSTEAD OF REF C.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 00974 122334Z

4. SPECIFICALLY, WE APPEAR TO BE OPERATING, FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES, IN THE BAHAMAS UNDER THE LONG RANGE PROVING GROUND AGREEMENT FOR AAF, GRAND BAHAMA, REFS A AND B FOR NAVFAC ELEUTHERA AND AUTEC, AND UNDER THE LORAN STATION AGREEMENT FOR LORSTA SAN SALVADOR. ALL ARE WORDED IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT MANNER, CONFORMED TO IN DIFFERENT DEGREES BY USG INSTALLATIONS, AND ENFORCED/NOT ENFORCED BY GCOB CUSTOMS TO DIFFERENT DEGREES AT DIFFERENT BASES. AUTEC HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED BY GCOB CUSTOMS FOR AGREEMENT COMPLIANCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY LIST REQUIREMENT. UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF MR. PARKER, NAVFAC ELEUTHERA HAS BEEN MOSTLY LEFT ALONE, AS HAD AAF GRAND BAHAMA. AT CG LORSTA SAN SALVADOR, THE LOCAL CUSTOMS AGENT HAS BEEN HOT AND COLD.

5. EMBASSY IS OF THE OPINION THAT, DUE TO THE PREVIOUS TOTAL LACK OF INTEREST AT NAVFAC ELEUTHERA ON PART OF GCOB, THE COMPLETE TURN ABOUT PROPOSED BY MR. PARKER SHOULD HAVE PROPERLY COME TO EMBASSY FROM MINEXTAFF VICE DIRECTLY FROM HIM TO THE BASE. THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE USG ANSWER TO GCOB MINEXTAFF, USING LANGUAGE DEPT/DOD CONSIDER APPROPRIATE, CONSIDERING THE

FOLLOWING POINTS AS THEY ARE RELATED TO MR. PARKER'S
LETTER:

- 1) THE RANGELINER ARRIVES IN THE BAHAMAS AT AAF GBI ON ITS SOUTHERN RUN AND SHOULD CLEAR CUSTOMS THERE, VICE ELEUTHERA. ON THE NORTHERN RUN, ELEUTHERA IS THE PROPER CLEARANCE POINT.
- 2) LISTS OF SIGNIFICANT ITEMS CAN BE PREPARED AND PROVIDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF REFS A AND B.
- 3) THERE IS NO PROVISION IN REFS A AND B FOR INSPECTION OF GOODS ON THE LISTS BY GCOB CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. THIS TACTIC WOULD BE HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL TO MORAL OF BASE PERSONNEL AND AN UNNECESSARY INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.
- 4) USG IS OBLIGATED BY REFS A AND B TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NASSAU 00974 122334Z

SPACE AT THE AIRPORT, BUT SINGLE QUARTERS RENT FREE AND MESSING, WITH REIMBURSEMENT, IF DESIRED.

6. FINALLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS A DEPT/DOD OVERALL REVIEW OF KSG CURRENT PROPOSALS TO GCOB WITH REGARD TO CUSTOMS MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH USG FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY, CLARITY OF LANGUAGE AND INTENT, AND REMOVAL OF ANY PROVISIONS CAUSING UNDUE HARDSHIP OR FINANCIAL BURDEN ON USG PERSONNEL. FOR EXAMPLE, CURRENT AGREEMENT DO NOT ALLOW FOR THE RAPID RATE OF DETERIORATION OF AUTOMOBILES IN THE BAHAMIAN ENVIRONMENT. ONLY ONE AUTOMOBILE PER EMPLOYSE IS ALLOWED TO BE IMPORTED DUTY FREE. PROVISION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE FOR DUTY FREE REPLACEMENT OF AUTOS BY LONG-TERM BASE EMPLOYEES AND FOR DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR PARTS/CONSUMABLES (TIRES, ETC.). LIKEWISE DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF REPAIR PARTS, REPLACEMENT APPLIANCES, ETC. SHOULD BE ALLOWED, WHETHER OR NOT IMPORTED UNDER PX AUSPICES.

TAYLOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TARIFF LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NASSAU00974
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-0288
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770777/aaaacpjr.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 55b38a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1922197
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAHAMIAN CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES AT U.S. FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS
TAGS: MARR, BF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55b38a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009